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21. (New) An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
- a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-9,
 - a polypeptide comprising a naturally occurring amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-9,
 - a biologically active fragment of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-9, and
 - an immunogenic fragment of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-9.

22. (New) An isolated polypeptide of claim 21 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-9.

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23. (New) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 21.

24. (New) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 22.

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25. (New) An isolated polynucleotide of claim 24 comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:10-18.

26. (New) A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 23.

27. (New) A cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 26.

28. (New) A method of producing a polypeptide of claim 21, the method comprising:

- culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and said recombinant

polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 21, and

- b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.

Jan 14 29. (New) A method of claim 28, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-9.

30. (New) An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 21.

31. (New) An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:10-18,
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b) a polynucleotide comprising a naturally occurring polynucleotide sequence at least 90% identical to a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:10-18,
c) a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide of a),
d) a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide of b), and
e) an RNA equivalent of a)-d).

32. (New) An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 60 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 31.

33. (New) A method of detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 31, the method comprising:

- a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide or fragments thereof, and

- b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

34. (New) A method of claim 33, wherein the probe comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides.

35. (New) A method of detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 31, the method comprising:
- a) amplifying said target polynucleotide or fragment thereof using polymerase chain reaction amplification, and
 - b) detecting the presence or absence of said amplified target polynucleotide or fragment thereof, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

36. (New) A composition comprising a polypeptide of claim 21 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Sub B1b > 37. (New) A composition of claim 36, wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1-9.

38. (New) A method of screening a compound for effectiveness as an agonist of a polypeptide of claim 21, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 21 to a compound, and
- b) detecting agonist activity in the sample.

39. (New) A method of screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 21, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 21 to a compound, and
- b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.

40. (New) A method of screening for a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 21, the method comprising:

- a) combining the polypeptide of claim 21 with at least one test compound under suitable conditions, and
 - b) detecting binding of the polypeptide of claim 21 to the test compound, thereby identifying a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 21.
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